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THE

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VOLUME LVII.

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THE
Board of Trade Journal.

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The Offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are at **73, Basinghall Street,** London, E.C. — registered telegraphic address, "**Advantage, London,**" Code—**5th Edition A.B.C.,** telephone number **12807 Central.** A statement of the objects and work of the Branch will be found on p. 46.

The attention of British traders is directed to the Sample Room, where the following are on view, with other exhibits:—

Samples.	Reference in "Board of Trade Journal." Date.	Page.
Cotton grown in Asiatic Turkey	24th Jan., 1907	193
Woollen and Worsted Yarns and Tops in demand in Japan	17th „ „	139
Sundry articles made of artificial rubber	10th „ „	84
Fish Skin from Sicily	3rd „ „	35
Vegetable Fat from Guatemala	27th Dec., 1906	625
Guayule Rubber, raw and manufactured, from Mexico ...	20th „ „	575
Sundry fibres from Mexico	15th Nov., „	325
Hosiery Yarn from Mexico	„ „ „	325
Wild cotton from Hayti	„ „ „	320
Sardines tinned at Santander	8th Nov., „	279
Vegetable Fibres from Chungking	1st Nov., „	225
Sweaters, of German make, used by the Chinese	11th Oct., „	56
Japanese Paper, Flannelette and Cottons sold in Corea ...	13th Sept. „	512
Specimens of Chinese Padlocks and Keys	9th Aug., „	255
Foreign Cotton Goods sold at Tangier	12th July, „	58
Cotton grown in Natal	„ „ „	82
Tin of United States Enamel Paint sold in Peru	5th „ „	10
Foreign Flannelette sold at Erzeroum	„ „ „	35
American Cottons sold at Chinkiang (small cuttings) ...	28th June, „	637
List of Chinese written characters suitable for novelties for the Chinese market	„ „ „	621

The following Special Trade Enquiry Offices are also at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.:—India, Dominion of Canada, Queensland, Cape of Good Hope, Transvaal and Orange River Colony. Statements of the objects and work of these Enquiry Offices will be found on p. 47.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply railway wheels and axles for waggons.

Railway Waggon Wheels and Axles.

The conditions of contract may be obtained

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W., and tenders are to be delivered at that office by two o'clock on Tuesday, the 16th April, after which time no tender will be received.

Copper Pipes, Locks, &c.

The Directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of copper pipes, locks, &c. Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's Offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, London, E.C., on payment of the fee for the specification, which payment will not be returned. Tenders must be delivered in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Copper Pipes," or, as the case may be, not later than 11 a.m., on Thursday, the 18th April. The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

CANADA.

Commercial Enquiries.

The following commercial enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Government Offices, 17, Victoria Street, London, S.W.,** whence further information regarding them may be obtained:—

HOME ENQUIRIES.

Two South Wales firms in a position to ship Welsh **anthracite coal** in good quantities at short notice make enquiry respecting opportunities of disposing of the same in Canada.

A Glasgow firm also make enquiry concerning openings in Canada for supplies of Scotch **anthracite coal.**

A firm of manufacturing chemists in the Midlands, turning out a wide range of **chemical products** suitable for sale by druggists, are desirous of extending their connexion with Canada, and would probably be prepared to appoint suitable agents at large business centres throughout the Dominion.

CANADIAN ENQUIRIES.

A correspondent in Wales, who is proceeding shortly to Western Canada, is prepared to take up commissions for English firms for the sale of the following classes of goods:—**ironmongery, tiles, chimney and sanitary pipes, machinery, electric, steam, and hand winches, tools of all descriptions, engines, oils, rubber goods, toys, &c.**

Enquiry is made from Toronto for the names of firms of good standing in the United Kingdom who require the services of a representative offering high class references. **Toilet soaps, perfumes, raw colours, preserved fruits,** and similar goods could be pushed with advantage.

Openings for British Trade.

The same correspondent is also seeking to represent a good firm exporting **corks.**

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, 17, Victoria Street, S.W.

The following commercial enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.,** whence further information regarding them may be obtained :—

HOME ENQUIRIES.

A manufacturer of **screw bits, augers and tools** of every description is prepared to appoint a suitable Canadian resident agent for Western Canada.

A company manufacturing **safety lifts** are prepared to appoint suitable Canadian resident agents.

A firm manufacturing **felts** of all kinds are looking for resident agents in Eastern Canada with a connexion.

A manufacturer of **belt punches** is prepared to appoint resident agents in Canada with a connexion.

CANADIAN ENQUIRY.

A firm of manufacturers' agents in Toronto are prepared to represent United Kingdom manufacturers of **coverings for lounges, goods for heavy curtains, ball fringes for draperies, and general dry goods.**

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

EGYPT.

Metal Reservoir.

Conditions of tender, plans, and specifications in connexion with the erection of a metal reservoir for the supply of water at Khanka have been received from H.M. Consul at Cairo (Mr. A. D. Alban), and may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street. E.C. Tenders must reach the Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, before the 30th April. A deposit equal to one-tenth of the amount of the tender is required to qualify the same.

Chemical Fertilisers.

The following particulars of the Egyptian trade in chemical fertilisers are taken from a report by the French Consul at Cairo, reproduced in the "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce."

The large increase in the area of land under cultivation in Egypt due to the irrigation works carried out in that country has led to a correspondingly large demand for chemical fertilisers. On cotton plantations, superphosphates are employed at the rate of

Openings for British Trade.

100 to 150 kilogs. per feddan (4,200 square metres), to which are often added 50 kilogs. of nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia. For wheat cultivation, nitrate of soda is employed at the rate of 100 kilogs. per feddan, mixed with 40 or 50 per cent. of superphosphates. The prices of chemical fertilisers in Egypt vary from week to week, averaging as follows in Alexandria—Sulphate of ammonia, 338 fr. per ton; nitrate of soda, 312 fr. per ton; superphosphates, 78 fr. per ton. The "Société Khédiviale d'Agriculture" supplies cultivators with fertilisers specially mixed for different crops, at the rate of 46 fr. per feddan for cotton, 41 fr. 50 cents for maize, and 28 fr. 50 cents for wheat.

The value of the imports of chemical fertilisers into Egypt increased from £E 16,417 in 1903 to £E 28,625 in 1904, and to £E 56,801 in 1905. Belgium holds by far the largest share of the trade, the imports from that country having risen from £E 255 in 1903 to £E 51,000 in 1905.

NORWAY.

Galvanised Iron Wire, Hemp Thread and Copper Wire.

H.M. Consul at Christiania (Mr. F. E. Drummond Hay) reports that tenders are invited by the Norwegian State Railways for the supply of telegraph material, viz., 41,300 kilogs. of 4 mm. galvanised iron wire, and 400 kilogs. of hemp thread for binding insulators. Tenders marked "Anbud paa Telegrafmateriel" will be received up to 3 p.m. of the 9th April at "Styrelsens Expeditionskontor, Christiania."

Tenders are also invited by the Norwegian State Telegraphs for the supply of 100 tons of copper wire of various dimensions. Offers should be marked "Anbud paa Kobbertraad," and be delivered to the Telegraph Administration ("Telegrafstyrelsen"), Christiania, before noon on the 15th April.

Copies of the specifications and conditions of tender may be seen by British makers at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

NOTE.—Apart from the usual Customs duties a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. is given to Norwegian manufacturers.

In all cases of Norwegian Government contracts it is obligatory that a resident agent should act for tenderers not residing in Norway, and be responsible to the Government; but it is not necessary for the agent to be a Norwegian firm.

BELGIUM.

Parquet Flooring and Furniture: Marble Work.

H.M. Consul-General at Antwerp (Sir C. Hertslet) reports that the Municipal Authorities of that city invite tenders, in connexion with the construction of the new Flemish Theatre, for (1) the supply of parquet flooring and furniture with accessories.

Openings for British Trade.

BELGIUM—*continued.*

The estimated cost is 65,420 frs. (about 2,616*l.*); (2) the supply and placing of marble with accessories. The specifications (*cahiers des charges* Nos. 1,216 and 1,217) may be obtained from the Hotel de Ville at Antwerp, on payment of 50 centimes and one franc respectively. Tenders, in sealed registered envelopes, should be delivered to "M. le Bourgmestre de la Ville" at the Hotel de Ville, Antwerp, not later than the 9th and 12th April respectively. A deposit of 5,000 frs. (about 200*l.*) is required in each case to qualify any tender.

Railway Construction.

The "Moniteur Belge" (Brussels) contains a notice, issued by the Société national des chemins de fer vicinaux," to the effect that tenders will be opened on the 17th April, at the offices of the "Société," at 14, Rue de la Science, Brussels, for the construction of the local railway from Lierre to Werchter, and the construction of a water tower. The estimated cost of the work is 296,306 frs. (11,852*l.*), and a deposit of 30,000 frs. (1,200*l.*) is required to qualify any tender. Tenders by registered letter will be received at the address mentioned above not later than the 16th April. A copy of the specification may be obtained on payment of 1 fr. from M. de Masy, rue Millis, No. 17, Antwerp.

ITALY.

A communication has been received from H.M. Consul at Palermo (Mr. S. J. A. Churchill) forwarding an extract from an Italian newspaper from which the following particulars are taken:—

Competition for Machine for extracting Essence of Bergamot

As a result of representations made by the Agricultural Committee of Reggio Calabria, a scheme is being prepared in the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce for a competition for a machine for extracting essence of bergamot. It is proposed to award a prize of not less than 50,000 lire (about 2,000*l.*) to the person submitting the machine which is adjudged best.

Plant for Chemical Laboratory.

The Reggio Calabria Chamber of Commerce have unanimously voted the sum of 18,000 lire (about 720*l.*) for the outfit of a chemical laboratory, with a view to promoting the citrus fruit industry of that province.

Electric Railway Plant.

The "Gazzetta Ufficiale" of 23rd March contains a copy of a Law authorising the "Società di navigazione e ferrovie per il lago di Lugano," to construct and work an electric funicular railway between Santa Margherita and Belvedere di Lanzo d'Intelvi.

Openings for British Trade.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Lubricating Oil.

According to the "Zentral Anzeiger" (Vienna), the State Railway Department at Olmütz invite tenders, which will be received up to the 30th April, for the supply of 85,000 kg. refined petroleum, 5,000 kg. light mineral lubricating oil for machinery, 30,000 kg. dark mineral lubricating oil for machinery, 14,000 kg. mineral lubricating oil for waggons, 2,200 kg. cleaning oil for locomotives, 800 kg. finest turpentine, as well as other lubricants, &c., required from 1st July, 1907, to 30th June, 1908.

GREECE.

Paper Pasteboard, &c.

The following particulars of the paper trade of Greece are taken from the report of the Austro-Hungarian Commercial Expert at Athens:—

The native paper industry produces ordinary qualities of paper in small quantities; otherwise the country is dependent on importations. On account of political activity in Greece, which finds expression in the publication of innumerable newspapers and pamphlets, the most important import of this class of goods is printing paper. Imports of newspaper in 1905 amounted to 666,880 okes, value 600,142 frs., of unglazed printing paper to 475,771 okes, value 475,771 frs., and of glazed printing paper to 241,149 okes, value 313,494 frs. Paper intended for news-printing must, in order to come under the lower rate of duty, be distinguished from other printing paper by a water mark consisting of two plainly apparent parallel lines reaching the whole length of the paper. This mark has to go vertically or horizontally in the middle of every sheet, and in the case of rolls of paper, in the middle along the whole length. The weight of the printing paper is usually 40 grammes per square metre for book and newspaper in reams, and 45 grammes per square metre for paper in rolls. The most usual sizes are 60 by 82, 73 by 105, and for rotary printing, 60 cm. high. Prices rule at 30 frs. per 100 kilogs. for unglazed, 32 frs. for glazed, and 34 frs. for coloured glazed, f.o.b. Piræus.

Wood pulp papers, including glazed and coloured in green or blue shades, serve as ordinary writing paper. The import of writing paper in 1905 amounted to:—Unglazed, 92,824 okes, value 83,542 frs.; glazed, 40,135 okes, value 44,149 frs.; paper for business books, &c., 7,404 okes, value 9,255 frs. The largest sale is for paper free from wood at the price of 55 to 70 frs. per 100 kilogs. of a weight to the square metre of not less than 50 grammes; the same should be imported in large sizes to save import duty and afterwards cut into smaller sizes. For account books, &c., a stout paper weighing 70 to 100 grammes per square metre is used.

Openings for British Trade.

The import of coloured paper amounts in value to more than 300,000 frs. yearly. Poster paper, wrapping paper, and paper used for making "koriandoli," is imported in various colours, mostly white, yellow, blue, red and green, weighing 5½ kilogs. per ream or 25 grammes per square metre and in size 58 by 80. Wrapping paper for packing tobacco comes in rolls 100 cm. broad. It is chiefly cellulose paper, glazed on one side, and either white, pink, green or blue. Envelopes are not imported, on account of the high tariff, but coloured glazed paper for their manufacture, comes in at 40 to 50 frs. per 100 kilogs.; also white cellulose paper at 56 frs., and further a good deal of so-called "duplex" wrapping paper, with one side differing in colour from the other. Paper for hat boxes, cigarette boxes, etc., is imported at 7.50 frs. per ream, size 51 by 76. For the inner packing of tobacco and cigarettes, in order to prevent the goods from drying up in the summer heat, a red wax paper is prepared in the country; the paper for this purpose must be of cellulose, glazed each side, and bright red; it is imported in 50 cm. broad rolls, weighing 40 grammes per square metre.

A fair demand exists for packing paper, which, however, is partly supplied by home manufacture; blue imported fetches 38 frs. per bale, and blue home-manufactured 33 frs.; yellow imported 22 frs. for heavy, and 16 frs. for light, the same of home manufacture fetching 14 frs. per bale. The best red and white blotting paper fetches 130 frs., second quality 60 frs. per 100 kilogs.

As regards pasteboard, &c., the article chiefly required is the thin white "carton" nos. 136-140 for cigarette boxes, sizes 70 by 100 and 66 by 95, weight 300 grammes per square metre, at from 35 to 46 frs. per 100 kilogs., according to quality. Brown pasteboard for the shoe trade is imported mostly in numbers up to 40, seldom higher. Grey pasteboard for covers of account books, &c., should be as heavy as possible, the books being sold by weight. Ivory Bristol "carton" for visiting and business cards should be pure white, size 50 by 65, weighing 85 to 100 kilogs. per 1000 sheets; cheap sorts fetch 60 frs. and better 100 to 140 frs. per 100 kilogs. Packing in bales of 25 kilogs. in wooden crates is recommended.

Cigarette paper forms a Government monopoly.

NOTE:—Oke = 2·84 lbs. avoirdupois.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Stoves.

With regard to an opening for the sale of heating and cooking stoves in Salonica and district, the Austro-Hungarian Consul at Salonica reports as follows:—

The demand for better heating arrangements is becoming more and more noticeable in Salonica on account of the light construc-

Openings for British Trade.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE—*continued.*

tion of the houses, the sensitiveness of the inhabitants to cold and the rigour of the winter. The old style "Mangals"—coal-vases for charcoal fires—are being rapidly replaced by stoves. Those chiefly preferred are stoves for wood, coal, and coke, as well as fire-clay and earthenware stoves for wood fires, prices ranging from 25 to 120 frs. for fire-clay stoves and 10 to 80 frs. for iron stoves. Portable petroleum oil stoves are also in demand here and there. Small stoves are generally preferred. Salonica traders like to place their orders in April or May, so that the goods may be ready for sale at the beginning of September. Besides heating stoves, cooking stoves are also imported, in particular the so-called economisers with one or two roasting shelves, with or without a boiler, and usually with one or two apertures for saucepans for boiling. They are of cast-iron or black plate, finished in polished iron and brass, prices varying between 25 and 120 frs. For heating stoves as well as kitcheners an increasing sale is anticipated, the provincial towns having commenced to show an interest in these articles. For next season's trade, early efforts should be made.

Agricultural Implements.

In a report on the agricultural resources of the district round Smyrna, the United States Consul there expresses the opinion that the awakening of Asia Minor to the need of modern implements of agriculture will present a great opportunity to manufacturers. Everything needed on a farm will, he says, find a sale. At present, as a rule, the most primitive methods are in use, although many implements have been imported in recent years. A dealer in agricultural machinery states that within the last 20 years over 60,000 American ploughs have been imported and sold. There are markets for breaking ploughs, cultivators, disks, harrows, seeders, drills, planters, rakes, mowers, binders, thrashers, engines, waggons, carriages, harness, saddles, carpenters' tools, and household utensils of every description.

The province of Aidin is composed of five districts, each of which is under the charge of a governor. The governors in turn are subject to the Governor-General, whose place of residence is Smyrna. The district of Smyrna has 669 villages; Magnesia, 966; Aidin, 450; Denizli, 385; and Mougla, 352. It is estimated that 3,400,000 head of livestock are raised annually in the five districts, 588,000 being raised in the district of Smyrna, 979,000 in that of Magnesia, 442,600 in Aidin, and 895,000 and 490,000, respectively, in the districts of Denizli and Mougla. Of oxen there are 131,000, and 120,400 cows, 30,000 buffaloes, 66,500 horses, 97,000 donkeys, 10,500 mules, 1,262,000 sheep, 21,500 camels, 1,660,000 goats, and 1,100 hogs. The value of the agricultural products of the five districts forming the Aidin province, but not including the revenues from forest land, is estimated to be annually about 6,000,000*l.*

Openings for British Trade.

BRAZIL.

Tugboat.

The Brazilian "Diario Official" of 5th March contains a copy of a Law granting the Ministry of Industry, Ways of Communication and Public Works a special credit of 50,000 milreis (about 3,125*l.*) on the purchase of a tugboat for use at the port of Bahia.

Railway Plant.

The "Diario" of 2nd March contains a copy of a Law granting the same Ministry a special credit of 300,000 milreis (about 18,750*l.*) on widening the gauge of the Central Railway of Brazil between Gagé and Kilometre 501, on the Ouro Preto branch.

PERU.

Railway Construction.

H.M. Legation at Lima has forwarded a translation of a decree issued by the Peruvian Government empowering Mr. C. R. Enoch to make a survey of the projected railway from Paita to the Maranon with a view to the construction of the line by a syndicate or company to be represented by him.

MANCHURIA.

Electric Crane. Railway Material.

The "North China Herald" announces that the South Manchuria Railway was to be handed over to the Company by the Military Administration on 31st March. The Company then propose to carry out extensive alterations and improvements. The landing pier at Tairen will be rebuilt and a railway station will be placed alongside. An electric crane will be erected on the pier to facilitate the discharging and loading of cargo. The relaying of the rails to standard gauge for a distance of more than 400 miles is expected to occupy about one year.

EXHIBITIONS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

International Horse Show at Olympia.

The Board of Trade have received particulars of an International Horse Show to be held at Olympia, London, W., from the 7th to the 13th June next. Communications should be addressed to the Manager, International Horse Show, 12, Hanover Square, W., where entries for the exhibition will be received up to the 1st May.

Openings for British Trade.

UNITED KINGDOM—*continued.*

International Exhibition of Motor Cars, Aeroplanes, &c.

The Board of Trade have also received a prospectus of the 12th Annual International Exhibition of motor cars, motor boats, motors, parts, accessories, machine tools, &c., to be held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, from 6th to 13th April. The exhibition will also include an international show of aeroplanes, airships, balloons, &c.

NETHERLANDS.

International Dairying Exhibition at the Hague.

A national and international exhibition of agriculture will be held in the Malieveld at the Hague, from the 14th to 23rd September next. It will comprise a national and international section for dairying.

A few copies of the programme have been received, through the Foreign Office, from the Netherland Legation in London, and an English translation of the same has been received from H.M. Consul at Rotterdam; these may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. Applications for space should be sent before the 1st May to the Exhibition Management, 42 Buitenhof, The Hague, on forms to be obtained at that address.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

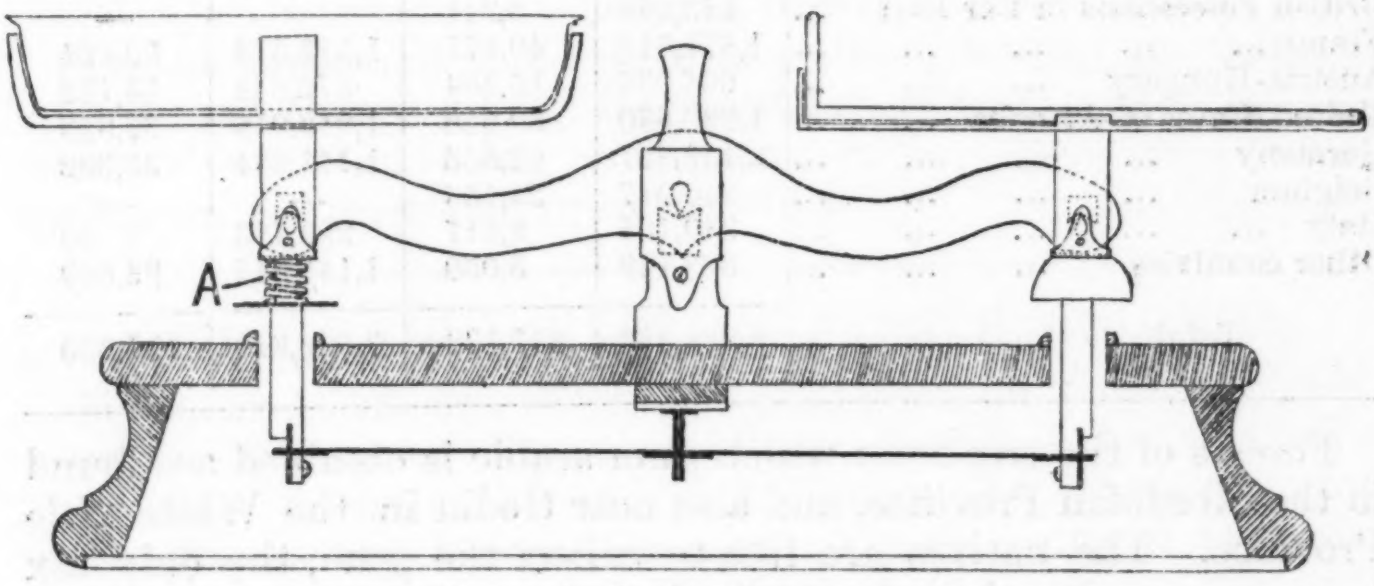
International Army and Marine Exhibition at Vienna.

The German Consul in Vienna reports that a Universal Austrian Exhibition and International Exhibition for Army and Marine will be held at Vienna in May to October, 1908, in connexion with the "Kaiser-Jubiläums-Ausstellung, 1908." It will include sections for commissariat, equipment, armament, sanitation, transport, telegraphy, field post, field telephony, field lighting, signalling, automobilism, aeronautics, military music, military instruction, cartography, photography, &c.

NOTICE UNDER THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT, 1904.

The following is a copy of a Notice (No. 44) giving the result of the examination and testing of a certain kind of weighing instrument for use in trade that has been submitted to the Board of Trade under the provisions of Section 6 of the Weights and Measures Act, 1904:—

(44)



A. Spring stop.

ONE-SIXTH FULL SIZE.

The Board of Trade have examined and tested a pattern of a counter weighing machine with spring stop attachment, of the form herewith shown, of the maximum capacity of 20 lb. (Class II.), submitted to the Department under the provisions of Section 6 of the above Act, and have issued a certificate that the pattern is not such as to facilitate the perpetration of fraud.

EGYPTIAN GUM ARABIC TRADE.

The following details of the export of gum arabic from Egypt are extracted from an article in the Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce in Egypt.

The exports of gum arabic in 1905 and 1906 were as follows :—

To	1905.		1906.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Kilos.	£ E.	Kilos.	£ E.
United Kingdom	1,374,155	34,159	985,343	20,000
British Possessions in Far East ...	133,048	3,344	—	—
France	1,677,517	40,471	1,513,314	30,834
Austria-Hungary	664,936	16,364	672,644	13,752
United States of America	1,230,830	30,518	1,942,016	39,823
Germany	2,139,827	52,553	1,141,644	23,392
Belgium	940,947	23,156	—	—
Italy	349,104	8,517	289,435	5,860
Other countries	328,119	8,050	1,145,544	23,669
Total	8,838,483	217,132	7,689,940	157,330

Forests of the tree from which gum arabic is obtained are found in the Kordofan Province, and also near Gedid in the White Nile Province. The natives are free to collect the gum, the only tax being a royalty levied at Omdurman. This royalty varies according to the price of the gum, and last year was about 2*s.* 6*d.* per 99 lbs. The season during which the trees yield their sap extends from December to May.

There are two main classes of gum, viz. : Ambery and bleached. In the latter case the gum is merely exposed to the strong action of the sun—generally in Omdurman—whilst in the former instance it is allowed to retain its natural amber colour. The best gum, and the largest crop, comes from Kordofan. The grading of the gum is mostly done by the foreign buyer.

After being collected, the gum is taken to the villages—principally Dueim, and there sold by the native to the Sudanese brokers for cash. The goods are then forwarded by boat to Omdurman, which is the principal gum market in the Sudan, where they are re-packed for European markets in strong double sacks holding about 300 lbs.

Instead of calculating the usual 100 rotolis (99 lbs.) to the cantar, the merchants of Omdurman receive 110 rotolis, the extra ten covering any loss on transit and all other waste. From Omdurman to Khartoum North by boat, the cost of transit, including all other charges, varies from 2½*d.* to 5*d.* the cantar (99 lbs.). To Port Soudan, the freight is 3*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* the ton of 1,000 kilos., with a reduction of 10 per cent. for a consignment of ten tons.

Egyptian Gum Arabic Trade.

From Port-Sudan the gum goes by steamer to Suez where it is sometimes graded, and then either transhipped for Europe, America, or Australia as the case may be, or else sent on to Cairo or Alexandria by rail.

The principal markets for gum arabic are Marseilles, Havre, Hamburg, New York, London, Liverpool, Antwerp, Barcelona, Melbourne, and Trieste.

The whole of the export trade is practically in the hands of Europeans, the shipping terms of payment being cash against documents, or from one to three months credit. In the case of a market like Melbourne, the buyer usually has a bank credit in London, upon which the seller is at liberty to draw.

The confectionery trade is perhaps the principal purchaser of gum arabic, though a very large number of other industries, *e.g.*, chemical works, printing and dyeing mills, letterpress printers, and so on, are interested in this product.

COTTON CULTIVATION IN FRENCH COLONIES.

Monsieur A. Esnault-Pelterie, "Conseiller du Commerce extérieur de la France," President of the French Colonial Cotton Association, recently delivered an address on the subject of cotton cultivation in the French Colonies. The following is extracted from a report of this address published in the "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" (Paris):—

The Association obtained about 80 tons of cotton in 1905-06. The samples and consignments received from **Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion, and Tahiti** were magnificent. Exhaustive experiments are in progress there, encouraged by consignments of seed, ginning machines and presses. Advice and information is supplied and facilities are provided for the forwarding and sale of the crop—always a difficulty for every new producer. In **Algeria,*** whence some tons of cotton have already been received, a complete ginning plant has been set up, and experiments are being made on a large scale. **Indo-China** exports 4,000 tons to 5,000 tons annually of a particular quality that is appreciated by the Chinese and Japanese, and the local administration is devoting itself to the development of cultivation. The funds of the French Cotton-Growing Association have not permitted of its work being spread over all the Colonies. This circumstance is a special source of regret in connexion with cotton-growing in **Madagascar**, as experiments have proved that excellent cotton can be obtained in the north-west of the island. The Egyptian as well as the American variety succeeds there, but it is probable that the former will be adopted, as the better price obtainable for it should be able to stand the high freight.

* See pp. 396-7 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 21st February, 1907.

Cotton Cultivation in French Colonies.

In the **Congo**, experiments have been put in hand and cotton will doubtless succeed in some districts, seeing that fine samples have been received. But the colony which should be in the best position to provide American sorts is certainly West Africa, which offers large areas and seems destined for this cultivation. There it is that the Association has made its greatest efforts with the result that, with perseverance and patient work, a considerable yield is looked for. The greatest advance has been made in **Dahomey**, where native-grown cotton of average quality can be purchased in interior markets; it is a trifle woolly, and difficult to work, but suitable for mixing with wool. Forty tons of this cotton were imported into France by the Association in 1905-6, and double that amount is expected in 1906-7. Ginning plant and a press have been installed at Cotonou and Abomey, and a third installation is proposed at Savalou. At the same time experimental fields have been started for training men and beasts in the use of the plough.

As to the **Ivory Coast**, the humidity prevents anything being done at present, but when the railway line now under construction has passed the 300 kiloms. of forest, it will reach the district of Kong, which is known to be a cotton centre. In **Guinea** 100 hectares have been planted under the auspices of the Administration. In Casamance, in **Upper Gambia**, a ginning station is proposed, which will probably be supplied from the cotton which is produced naturally in this district. At Richard-Toll, in **Senegal**, experiments in irrigation are being undertaken by the Administration.

In the **Soudan**, although work has only reached a preliminary stage, there is promise of the development of an important centre of production. Native-grown cotton has been found in this district, but of inferior quality; seeds of various sorts have been distributed, in order to ascertain which are suitable, with the result that American varieties have been found to succeed perfectly in the first year, and since the second year some tons of cotton have been yielded, comparing favourably with the better American kinds. Owing to the backward state of the country, the quantity obtained did not come up to expectations, but progress is being made each year.

As regards the **Niger-Bani** country, success is considered to be dependent on irrigation, and it is hoped that the Administration will be induced to experiment in that direction.

The "Compagnie Francaise d'Etudes et d'Entreprises Coloniales," founded about a year ago, is experimenting with a cotton plantation of 1,000 hectares in the north-west of Madagascar. They have also 6,000 hectares at Guadeloupe, a considerable part of which is expected to be found favourable for cotton cultivation. This company intend to start further cotton-growing enterprises in conjunction with other cultivation.

Hectare = 2·47 acres.

COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS IN MEXICO.

H.M. Minister in Mexico (Mr. R. T. Tower, C.V.O.) has forwarded a report on commercial conditions in that country, in which, after referring to the gradual absorption by United States capital of so many enterprises, such as railways, mines, &c., the influx of United States machines and labour-saving appliances all over the country, and to the wise policy of the Government in encouraging foreign capital while at the same time maintaining their determination to control their own affairs, as evidenced by their recent acquisition of the Mexican Central and Mexican National Railway lines (see p. 245 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for January 31) and the construction of the Tehuantepec Railway (see p. 543 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 14th March, and previous notices), he writes: "As far as concerns Mexico's share in developing her industries, I believe one may say generally that **textile** factories (cotton and wool) are for the most part in the hands of Mexican and Spanish capitalists; the factory at Atlixco, the most modern and most extensive, is organised by British, Mexican, and French capital—also the jute factories by Mexican and British capital.

"The manufacture of **sugar** from the cane and the distillation of **spirits** are chiefly in the hands of Mexicans and Spaniards.

"The manufacture of **cigarettes** and **cigars** is controlled by French, Mexicans, and Spaniards.

"The **Electric Tramways** of the Capital are in the hands of a Canadian Company; those in the rest of the Republic are nearly all Mexican-owned.

"The Power and Light Company of the Federal District is Canadian; that at Puebla is in the hands of Messrs. S. Pearson & Son, while all other undertakings for **electric power** and **light** are controlled by Mexican, German, and American capitalists.

"The principal **metallurgical** establishments of the Republic are organised by Mexican, and in some cases by American capital.

"**Groceries** (Italian warehouses) are in the hands of Spaniards and Americans.

"**Mercers' stores,** for the sale of woollen, cotton and silk goods, are French, Spanish and Mexican.

"**Glass** and **crockery** are mainly Belgian and French.

"**Hardware** is in German hands.

"**Motor-cars** are almost exclusively American; a few French and German are being imported.

"**Machinery** in the main comes from America, though British, German and Swiss machines are largely represented.

"**Banks.**—The National Bank, the chief banking establishment of the Republic, is composed of Mexican, Spanish and French capital; the Bank of London and Mexico, with Mexican and Spanish capital; the Central Bank with Mexican and German capital, and the Bank of Montreal with Canadian capital.

MINERAL WEALTH OF BRAZIL.

The following particulars of the mineral wealth of Brazil are extracted from a review of the mineral industry, by a mining engineer of Rio de Janeiro, published in the "Engineering and Mining Journal" (New York):—

Gold.—The most important auriferous region in Brazil extends from Bahia to Goyaz, occupying an enormous area of the State of Minas-Geraes. Auriferous districts of more or less importance exist also in the States of Matto-Grosso, Rio Grande, S. Paulo, Paraná, Ceará Pará, and Maranhao and in Brazilian Guiana.

The State of Minas has been the centre of activity of the gold industry in the country. Gold here appears in alluvial deposits or in several types of veins or rocks. At Campanha and S. Gonçalo, districts of southern Minas-Geraes, gold occurs in gneiss. At Gongo-Socco, Marquiné, &c., gold occurs in a soft hematitic quartz schist (micaceous iron ore) named locally *jacutinga*. At Morro-Velho gold occurs in lode of sulphides and carbonates. The Morro-Velho mine has been worked since colonial times.

The gold-dredging industry is beginning to attract attention. In Matto-Grosso a dredge is working on the river Coxipo with profit. In Minas at present there are two dredges at work on the Rio das Mortes and Ribeirao do Carmo. The impulse that the industry may gain in the country depends largely upon the result of these operations.

The Guiana placers have furnished great quantities of gold, but lately the production has fallen off.

Diamonds and Carbons.—With the discovery of diamonds in South Africa and the development of the industry in that region, diamond mining in Brazil has suffered greatly and has been almost paralysed.

The diamantiferous district is very large. It extends from Matto-Grosso to Bahia, crossing the States of Goyaz and Minas-Geraes, which is the principal centre of the industry. A French company until recently explored the Boa-Vista mines, near Diamantina, and at present an English company is working the Agua-Suja mines, Bagagem, but operations are still in the installation stage.

Lately several diamond-dredging claims of Brazil on the river Jequitinhonha, the diamantiferous river, have been examined by American companies. On the river Coxipo, in Matto-Grosso, many diamonds have been gathered with the gold, and with appropriate plant, diamond dredging may offer very satisfactory results, when competently directed.

Carbons exist in the diamantiferous district of Bahia, named Chapada Diamantina. There is no systematic exploration, the diamonds being found by the *garimpeiros*, or washers, who employ primitive processes. Carbons being of comparatively high value, their presence in the diamantiferous alluvials of Bahia with the

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diamond has given an added importance to these deposits during the last few years.

Manganese.—The manganese industry is comparatively a new one which has recently taken great strides. As there is not in the country a metallurgical industry, all the ore is exported to Europe and North America.

The principal exportation centres are in Minas-Geraes and Bahia, but the industry in this last State still awaits development. In Minas there are two districts. That of Burnier, located 500 kiloms. from the sea by railway, contains manganese deposits included in the metamorphic rocks and associated with limestones and iron cres. The ore exported yields from 50 to 55 per cent. metallic manganese, and contains from 10 to 20 per cent. water. It is comparatively free from phosphorus.

The Lafayette district has an ore of a different nature; it appears in fissure veins and has been formed by the decomposition and leaching of a rock containing manganiferous garnets. The ore exported gives from 49 to 51 per cent. metallic manganese, 3 per cent. silica, and 0·08 phosphorus.

A large manganese ore deposit was prospected in Matto-Grosso, near the Bolivian frontier. This deposit is situated some miles from the river Paraguay and offers favourable working and transportation conditions. There are said to be many millions of tons of ore in sight.

Iron.—Iron deposits are abundant in Brazil. Oxides of iron constitute one of the common derivatives in the metamorphic grounds of Minas, Bahia, Goyaz, and Matto-Grosso, and there is no doubt that these deposits constitute one of the greatest iron ore reserves in the whole world.

For lack of mineral fuel the iron industry is not developed. It has been suggested that Brazilian iron ores could be exported to England and the United States at a profit, providing mining were done on a large scale and the handling of the ore were carried out in an economical way.

Coal.—A considerable area in the south of Brazil, and limited areas in the north and west, are covered by Permian rocks containing coal beds. For many years the occurrence of coal in the south has been known and more than one exploration has been attempted, but without important results. Lately, the attention of the government has been called to this industry and an expert has been engaged to study the subject.

The carboniferous basins in south Brazil have been studied and experiments made concerning the preparation of the coal in briquettes. It is already known that the carboniferous basins in south Brazil constitute one single basin, which is therefore extensive, stretching from S. Paulo to Rio Grande do Sul. The

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most promising beds are situated in the State of Sta. Catharina and Rio Grande, and drilling operations undertaken by the government appear to give very encouraging results. Brazilian coals briquetted in Germany gave the following results: 77 to 79·27 per cent. carbon; 0·7 to 0·9 per cent. sulphur; 8 to 9 per cent. ash; calorific power, B.t.u., 13,669, determined by calorimeter, and 13,903 calculated.

Copper.—Copper ores have been encountered in many places in Brazil. However, only in Rio Grande do Sul have deposits been the object of small explorations. In this State the principal copper deposit is that of Camaquan, worked by a Belgian company. Some tons of ore sent to England gave from 28 to 30 per cent. copper. Near Caçapava is another copper deposit, the Primavera mine, a quartz vein containing copper-glance and pyrites. At Cerro Martino there is a copper deposit, 86 miles from Rio Negro, giving, it is said, from 7 to 25 per cent. copper. Copper ores are also found at Cerro do Geraldo, Lavas and Quarahim.

In the State of Bahia, in the district of Villa Nova da Rainha, copper ores have recently been encountered in an eruptive decomposed rock as carbonates of copper. In Ceará, Maranho and Paraná, copper ores are found, but no study by a competent expert on these occurrences has been made.

Monazitic Sands.—Rich deposits of monazitic sands* are found along the Atlantic ocean. These deposits are situated on the Federal foreshores and the explorations are monopolised by two concessionaires. The beach sands contain 70 to 80 per cent. of monazite. A plant was recently erected for the concentration of monazitiferous gravel found in quantity along the banks of the River Parahyba. This treatment of river ground is entirely a new industry and if successful will revolutionise the Brazilian trade in monazite.

Other Minerals.—The following minerals and metals occur in Brazil: Tourmaline, precious beryl, cymophane and triphane, topaz, garnets, in the State of Minas-Geraes; oxide of zirconium and other rare earths at Bahia, Minas, Espirito-Santo and Rio de Janeiro; galena, in Minas-Geraes; palladium associated with gold in Goyaz and Minas; platinum in Minas and Pernambuco; mica and asbestos in Minas and Bahia.

* See "Board of Trade Journal" of 19th October, 1905, p. 129; 8th June, 1905, p. 463; and previous notices.

TRADE OF ARGENTINA IN 1906.

According to official statistics received at the Board of Trade, the value of the imports of merchandise into Argentina in 1906 was 269,970,521 dols., an increase of 64,816,101 dols., as compared with 1905. The exports of merchandise amounted to 292,253,829 dols., a decrease of 30,590,012 dols. The United Kingdom headed the list both as regards imports and exports. As regards imports, H.M. Legation at Buenos Ayres points out that it must be remembered that the figures are based on the arbitrary valuations of the Customs tariff of values, which, in many cases, greatly exceed the proper value of the merchandise, whilst with respect to the destination of exports, a large proportion of the goods appearing under the heading "uncertain destination" are, in fact, delivered in the United Kingdom.

The following table shows the principal countries participating in the trade, and the share taken by each in 1906, as compared with 1905 :—

Principal Countries.	1905.		1906.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	Dols.	Dols.	Dols.	Dols.
United Kingdom	68,391,043	44,826,670	94,829,938	43,224,038
Germany	29,083,027	37,058,221	38,416,259	39,417,196
Belgium	8,727,076	20,780,850	12,228,040	25,621,395
Spain	5,726,872	2,334,802	7,368,269	2,572,576
France	21,248,202	37,594,281	26,744,875	35,763,354
Italy...	20,284,673	6,468,941	24,123,636	6,906,124
United States of America...	28,920,443	15,717,458	39,474,894	13,332,112
Brazil	5,328,004	13,039,395	6,641,025	11,891,315
Other countries	17,445,080	35,992,495	20,143,585	17,910,971
Uncertain destination ...	—	109,030,728	—	95,614,748
Totals	205,154,420	322,843,841	269,970,521	292,253,829

The following table shows the value of the principal articles **imported** during the years 1905 and 1906 :—

Principal Articles imported.	1905.	1906.
	Dols.	Dols.
Textiles...	46,218,951	54,130,039
Iron and hardware, &c.	29,813,153	43,534,438
Vehicles and rolling stock	23,752,349	35,055,364
Building material	15,386,391	22,001,698
Stoneware, glass and ceramic goods	13,680,940	20,910,800
Agricultural implements	16,532,552	17,158,545
Foodstuffs	13,735,925	17,662,548
Wines, spirits, &c.	9,167,842	11,794,039
Chemicals and pharmaceutical products	6,275,786	7,582,859
Oils	5,559,792	7,880,973
Wood and manufactures of	4,540,823	5,612,222
Tobacco, &c.	4,455,408	4,911,079
Paper and manufactures of	4,133,842	4,914,737
Electrical goods	2,034,674	3,430,031
Leather and manufactures of	1,796,844	2,314,551
Colours and dyes	1,441,726	1,640,435

Trade of Argentina in 1906.

The value of the principal **exports** from Argentina during the past two years were as follows: —

Principal Exports.	1905.	1906.
	Dols.	Dols.
Wheat	85,883,141	66,561,181
Wool in the grease	64,312,927	58,402,771
Maize	46,537,402	53,365,687
Hides and skins	30,509,533	29,493,107
Linseed	26,233,851	25,915,861
Frozen meat	21,553,752	20,771,952
Wheat-flour	5,073,699	4,477,964
Cattle	5,160,483	1,676,145
Quebracho extract	2,427,772	2,162,949

Note.—The dollar referred to is the gold dollar, worth about 4*s.*

PACKING GOODS FOR THE LEVANT.

The following extracts from an article published in the "Revue Commerciale du Levant" (the monthly bulletin of the French Chamber of Commerce at Constantinople) respecting the inspection of packages in the Turkish Custom-houses, may prove of interest to manufacturers shipping merchandise to Asia Minor and other parts of the East:—

Turkish Custom-houses open all cases, boxes, packets, or parcels of every description. In the case of uniform packets, however, containing exactly the same quantity of identical objects, such as sardine cases, barrels of cement, &c., the Custom-house officials content themselves sometimes with only opening a part. Under all circumstances the contents are sounded as far as possible, especially those cases containing cement, sugar, and similar goods.

The packets are not properly opened in the Custom-house, they are simply broken into, and the repacking is done in the most summary manner. No attention whatever is paid to the remarks, notices, or instructions on the boxes, so far as the "side to be opened" is concerned. The Custom-house broker, who is present at the operation, can have the opening made on the side indicated on condition that he compensates the workmen who act in conformity with his wishes. But it is invariably certain that the fact of asking to have a case opened on one special side gives rise to suspicions on the part of the Custom-house officials, who then cause the case to be emptied to the last object.

Too much attention cannot be paid to the packing of goods intended for the interior. The two railway lines running out of Smyrna into the hinterland, feed but a small territory in which many foreign articles of merchandise find markets. There are caravan routes leading from Smyrna to many points hundreds of miles away. Merchandise intended for transit through Smyrna

Packing Goods for the Levant.

and Trebizond to the lake districts of inner Asia Minor or Persia should be packed exceptionally well, inasmuch as it must withstand the jolts of caravan transportation, not to speak of rain and heat.

Some of the quays in Levantine ports enable the steamers to go alongside. In such cases the cargo is discharged by windlass direct on to the quay, which considerably diminishes the risks of breakage. When it is impossible to come alongside, as is generally the case at Smyrna, the cargoes are discharged into lighters and then towed to the quay and unloaded by means of cranes, when their weight renders the employment of these lifting instruments necessary. As a rule little damage is done in transferring cargoes from vessels to the Custom-house for the reason that the quay companies are usually responsible for breakage. The fault lies wholly with the Custom-house porters who not only ruin the packing of merchandise in the Custom-house, but also in carrying the cases from the Custom-house to their place of destination after examination.

It is impossible to change this for the reason that these workmen have the monopoly of such transportation. The heavy packages are carried by two, four, or eight porters, by means of long poles, the extremities of which rest on the shoulders, and on which the loads are hung. When the transit is long the porters rest two or three times on the way, and in order to do this they let their load fall roughly to the ground. For the reasons indicated, and because the roads are very badly paved, well-equipped vehicles are very rare in the different parts of the Levant. It is, therefore, advisable to avoid the use of large cases and heavy packages as much as possible. There is no maximum weight, but with those weighing more than 30 cwts., the discharging expenses very greatly increase the cost of transportation. To transport such heavy boxes is difficult enough in the towns, but it is next to, if not quite impossible in the interior.

In the provinces where there are no railways, the roads, when such exist, are generally in a deplorable condition. Transport is effected by means of carts drawn by oxen or horses or other beasts of burden. The packages which run the least risk of being broken, and which incur the least expense for porterage, are those weighing only one "load," *i.e.*, 145 pounds. One man can carry such a package. Above this weight the cost of transportation—obligatory for all packages passing through the Custom-house, even though the merchandise be received at the door of the Custom-house depôt by the receiver—is doubled, and from 345 pounds, it is tripled. It is therefore inadvisable for packages coming regularly and in great number to make cases or bales which, for an extra weight of small importance, pay double porterage. There are no preferred forms or shapes prescribed by the Custom-house.

Packing Goods for the Levant.

Delicate and valuable objects should, above all, be well packed. Badly packed goods offer an opportunity for theft and this is always a source of trouble. Care should also be taken that excessive packing dues do not harm the sale of merchandise. Heavy and voluminous packages should be avoided as much as possible, as they constitute a great increase of cost and numerous risks of breakage. Merchandise should be packed with the idea that all the inscriptions "Fragile," "Top," "Bottom" are not understood and if so, never respected. They should be put on, nevertheless, as it costs nothing and may be of some little service. Cases should be tightly packed as this renders theft more difficult. When valuable goods are shipped, the case should be made so that it could not be opened without leaving marks. It sometimes happens that contents of cases are extracted with such skill that it remains undiscovered until opened at the point of destination. The difference in weight is often made good by introducing stones. That parcels and packets can be opened and closed with such adroitness, without leaving the least trace, proves that perfect tools have been applied by ingenious and skilful hands. It is advisable, therefore, to construct a case which cannot be opened without leaving an irreparable proof of such thefts.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Drawbacks.

The "Commonwealth Gazette" for 16th February last contains a notice, dated 10th January, 1907, providing for a drawback of duty on the under-mentioned materials used in the manufacture of articles within the Commonwealth on exportation thereof, subject to certain specified conditions:—

Materials used in the manufacture of flour bags when exported filled with flour.

Duty leviable on Fibro-Cement.

The same issue of the "Gazette" contains a Custom's notice, dated 7th February, 1907, stating that compressed slabs of fibro-cement—which can be used as substitutes for wrought stone—shall, on importation into the Commonwealth, be charged with duty leviable on wrought stone, n.e.i. (viz., 20 per cent. *ad valorem*).

NEW ZEALAND.

Prohibition of Exportation of Arms, &c., to New Hebrides.

The "New Zealand Gazette" for 31st January last, contains an order in Council dated 21st January, 1907, providing for the prohibition of the exportation of arms, explosives, military and naval stores from New Zealand to the New Hebrides, except such arms, &c., as are exported under permit obtained from the Minister of Customs.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

SIERRA LEONE.

Free Importation of Empty Kerosene Tins.

The "Sierra Leone Royal Gazette" for 19th January last contains an Order-in-Council of 8th January, 1907, made under authority of the provisions of the Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance No. 10 of 1903, which provides for the free importation of "empty kerosene tins" into the Colony.

MONTSERRAT.

Revision of Import Duties.

The Board of Trade have received from the Governor of the Leeward Islands a copy of the Customs Tariff of import and export duties at present in force in the Presidency of Montserrat.

The rates of duty leviable on various articles are the same as those previously in force, with the exception of certain duties imposed on the undermentioned articles on importation into the Presidency under Ordinance No. 9 of 1906:

Articles.	Rates of Import Duty.	
	Old Rates. (Under Ordinance 2 of 1906).	New Rates. (Under Ordinance 9 of 1906).
	s. d.	*s. d.*
Flour of wheat—per barrel or bag not exceeding 196 lbs., and other packages in like proportion	7 6	6 8
Soap, other than fancy or toilet ...Per lb.	0 0¾	0 0½
Tea ... ... „	0 9	0 6
Tobacco—viz., leaf if imported in packages containing not less than 500 lbs.	1 1½	1 0
Tobacco, manufactured, including snuff Per lb.	3 9	3 4
Goods, "unenumerated" in the Tariff *Ad val.*	15 %	13⅓ %

RUSSIA.

Exportation of Krivoi-Rog Iron Ores.

The British Commercial Agent in Russia (Mr. H. Cooke) reports, on the authority of the "Commercial and Industrial Gazette" of St. Petersburg, that it has been decided to suspend for a period not exceeding five years the hitherto existing prohibition against the exportation from Russia of Krivoi-Rog iron ores *viâ* the Russian western frontier.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

FRANCE—HAITI.

New Commercial Convention.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy of a despatch from H.M. Consul-General at Port-au-Prince, respecting the new Commercial Convention between France and Haiti, which was signed at Port-au-Prince on the 30th January last. Under the provisions of this Convention, the principal Haitian products, including rum and tafia, are entitled, on importation into France, to pay duty under the French "minimum" tariff. In return, certain natural and manufactured products of French or Algerian origin, enumerated in a list (Table B.) annexed to the Convention, will enjoy on importation into Haiti a reduction of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. off the duties of the Haitian "minimum" tariff. The Haitian Customs duties on the articles enumerated in Table B, and on French wines, are not to be increased whilst the Convention remains in force. French vessels are not exempted from paying the supplementary tonnage dues on import duties, (as they were under the previous Convention of 1900), and, consequently, vessels of all nationalities will now be treated on the same footing. These tonnage dues are not to be increased during the continuance of the Convention.

Pending ratification, the Convention came into operation provisionally on the 1st February last. It is to remain in force for a period of three years, and, unless denounced six months before the expiration of that period, until six months after denunciation by either contracting party.

The complete text of the Convention, as given in the Haitian "Moniteur," may be seen by persons interested at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

MADAGASCAR.

Export Duty on Rubber.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that by virtue of a Decree of the Governor-General of Madagascar, an export duty of 40 centimes per kilogramme has been imposed as from the 13th March last, on rubber exported from Madagascar and its Dependencies.

FRANCE—CORSICA.

Customs Régime of Wheat Flour, Rice, &c.

The French "Journal Officiel" for the 20th March contains the text of a Law, dated 18th March, adding the following articles to the list of Corsican products which are admitted into continental France free of duty, under the conditions laid down by Articles 6 and 7 of the Law of 6th May, 1841 :—

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

Wheat flour; grain, pearled or hulled; groats; semolina in grains; ships' bread and biscuit; starch; ginger-bread; dextrin and other substances derived from amylaceous products; rice, broken rice, and rice flour.

The Law provides further that corn, wheat flour, pearled or hulled grain, groats, ships' bread and biscuit, starch, ginger-bread, dextrin and other substances derived from amylaceous products, rice, broken rice and rice flour, imported into Corsica from foreign countries shall there be subject to the full import duties leviable in continental France.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Customs Decisions.

The following is the substance of some decisions, which have recently been issued by the Treasury Department at Washington, affecting the application of the United States Customs Tariff to certain articles of imported merchandise :—

Warehoused merchandise dutiable by weight is properly assessed according to its weight at the time of entry and not of withdrawal from warehouse, under section 33 of the Tariff.

Unusual coverings.—Section 19 of the Tariff prescribes that when merchandise, subject to an *ad valorem* duty, is imported contained in unusual coverings, the dutiable value of such merchandise shall include the cost of their coverings, which shall be assessed with "additional duty . . . at the rate to which the same would be subject if separately imported." The effect of this provision is held to be that the value of the "unusual coverings" is to be added to the value of the merchandise in calculating the amount of the *ad valorem* duty payable, and that a further duty is to be imposed on the "unusual coverings" at the rate to which they would be subject if imported by themselves.

[This reverses a decision reported at p. 502 of the "Journal" for the 14th September, 1905.]

Also the following :—

Articles.	Paragraph of the Tariff under which dutiable.	Rate of Duty.
Braids made of cotton or other vegetable fibre and of india-rubber, irrespective of the value of the rubber component	339	60 % *ad val.*
Camels'-hair press cloth made of the hair of the camel, dutiable as a manufacture of wool ...	366	44 cents per lb. & 50 % *ad val.*
Gallilith in sheets, being the crudest form in which it is imported	Section 6	20 % *ad val.*
Mother-of-pearl in pieces formed by cutting or grinding into slabs, designed for use in the manufacture of handles for knives, button-hooks, and similar articles	450	35 % „
Agate in pieces, cut and otherwise prepared for use as bearings in scales, dutiable as precious stones cut but not set	435	10 % „

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

Articles.	Paragraph of the Tariff under which dutiable.	Rate of Duty.
Pineapples in their own juice, which are preserved in cans and contain 3 per cent. of added sugar for flavouring purposes, but in which the preservative qualities are found in the juice and the hermetical sealing of the cans rather than in the sugar, dutiable as "pineapples preserved in their own juice"	263	25 % *ad val.*
So-called whetstone blocks, weighing 80 to 110 pounds, which after being quarried have been subjected to a rough dressing process, and which, in the condition as imported, are used by calico printers for sharpening instruments and grinding the edges of rollers, dutiable as "minerals, crude, or not advanced in value or condition by refining or grinding, or by other process of manufacture"	614	Free.
Cotton damask table covers, napkins, d'oylies, and other completed articles made of cotton damask, dutiable as "cotton table damask" ... [This reverses a decision reported at p. 460 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 8th June, 1905.]	321	40 % *ad val.*
"Marble-ised" paper.—Hand-made paper used for fly-leaves or linings of books that has been "marble-ised" by being dipped in a coating solution, dutiable as surface-coated paper ...	398	2½ cents per lb. and 15 % *ad val.*

Moisture absorbed by wool in transit.—In order to sustain a claim for allowance of moisture absorbed by wool on the voyage of importation, the fact that there is an increase of about 1½ per cent. in the landed weight over that of the invoice weight, which is the natural and normal amount of absorption by the wool, is not sufficient, but it must appear that the increased weight is due to the excessive and unusual absorption of sea water or otherwise.

Automobiles may properly be classed as "household effects" under paragraph 504 of the Tariff, and are free of duty if actually used abroad by persons or families not less than one year, and not intended for any other person, nor for sale. If they have been subjected to extensive repairs shortly before re-importation, after being used abroad for more than one year, so much of the machine as is a new manufacture (new parts, re-upholstering, &c.) is dutiable, the rest being free of duty.

[This reverses a decision reported at p. 117 of the "Journal" for the 19th April, 1906.]

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

"Decauville" Tiebars, Chairs and Fishplates.

With reference to the notice which appeared at page 438 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 28th February last, on the subject of the tariff treatment of "Decauville" rails in the Argentine Republic, the Board of Trade have now received information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that the regulations laid down for the importation of "Decauville" rails are to be regarded as applicable also to tiebars, chairs and fishplates, of the same system.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

RUSSIA.

Railway Construction in 1906.

The British Commercial Agent in Russia (Mr. H. Cooke) reports that, according to the official "Commercial and Industrial Gazette" (St. Petersburg), the length of the Russian railway system was increased in 1906 by 1,818 versts (1,212 miles). The most important lines opened for regular traffic during the year were those connecting Obukhovo (near St. Petersburg) and Vologda, 550 versts (366 miles); Kubsk-Tashkent, 795 versts (530 miles); Andreyevtsa-Siedlets, 176 versts (117 miles); Kherson-Nikolaieff, 60 versts (40 miles); and the Bogoslovskaia line (in the Ural), 182 versts (121 miles).

In addition to the above, the following lines were completed by the end of the year, to be opened at the beginning of 1907:—Vologda-Viatka, 602 versts (401 miles); Bologoe-Polotz, 429 versts (286 miles); Polotz-Siedlets, 414 versts (276 miles).

During the year 428 versts (285 miles) of extra track lines were constructed along the Polish and St. Petersburg—Warsaw railways.

NORWAY.

Engagement and Discharge of Norwegian Seamen, in Norway: Regulations.

A copy of certain sections of the law of Norway, respecting the engagement and discharge of Norwegian seamen in Norway. has been received, through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Minister at Christiania. Under the Norwegian law, masters of foreign vessels when engaging or discharging Norwegian seamen in Norway must produce such seamen to the Norwegian authorities. It is stated that masters of vessels evade this obligation, and it is therefore desired to call attention to the matter in order that the requirements of the law may be observed.

GERMANY.

Kaiser Wilhelm Canal.

In a report on the extension of the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal and its traffic from 1902 to 1905, H.M. Embassy at Berlin states that the subject of the widening of this Canal, so as to permit in the future of the passage of the largest modern men-of-war, largely occupies the attention of the German public at the present time. Statements have appeared in the Press, both as to the enormous works about to be carried out and with regard to their cost, but from official quarters nothing has been published of a definite nature. It has, however, been announced that the new plans for the widening of the Canal will shortly be laid before the Reichstag, and that the proposed large expenditure connected with it will be embodied in a special supplementary estimate. Many statements have appeared as to the sum that the Reichstag is to be asked to grant for this purpose. It is likely that the proposed expenditure may reach a total of 10,000,000*l.* to 15,000,000*l.*

Shipping and Transport.

This proposed extension of the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal is not only of vast importance from a naval point of view, but is one that will also greatly benefit mercantile shipping. It is believed that the German Government have largely taken this matter into consideration with a view of increasing their receipts from that source. At the present time some two-fifths of all the shipping passing into the Baltic go through this canal. It is hoped, when the widened canal is available, that a part of the remaining three-fifths may also be induced to take this shorter passage to Baltic ports.

A draft Law has been laid before the Reichstag concerning the collection of dues on the Canal. It provides that the power of fixing those dues shall remain in the hands of the German Emperor, in agreement with the Federal Council, until 30th September, 1912. This power was vested in him by section 3 of the Law of 16th March, 1886, for the construction of the Canal, and would, otherwise, expire on the 30th September, 1907. The dues themselves are not altered, and are printed as attached to the Decree of 4th August, 1896, which authorised them to be collected.

A short "Exposé des Motifs" precedes the Draft Bill, from which the following particulars of the total shipping and receipts are summarised:—

Year.	Traffic.		Receipts.		
	Number of Ships.	Tonnage net.	£	s.	d.
1902	32,010	4,573,834	114,088	4	0
1903	32,038	4,990,287	124,089	2	0
1904	32,623	5,270,477	132,536	0	0
1905	33,147	5,796,949	143,643	9	0

GERMANY—UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Proposed Passenger Service between Hamburg and Galveston.

The British Commercial Agent in New York (Mr. E. Seymour Bell) reports, with reference to the announcement that the Hamburg-American line is contemplating the installation of a regular passenger service between Hamburg and Galveston, that previously the line has been giving only a freight service to Galveston, and this will now be augmented so as to secure a large share of such immigrants as may intend to settle in the Southern and South-Western States. It is said that a few cabin passengers will also be carried. It is expected that by thus diverting some of the passenger business the congestion of immigrants at New York and other eastern ports will be relieved and Western and Southern States, where settlers are required, will be benefited.

Shipping and Transport.

FRANCE-EGYPT.

New SS. Line from Dunkirk and Havre to Alexandria.

H.M. Consul-General at Havre (Mr. W. R. Hearn) reports that, according to the "Courrier du Soir," a new steam navigation company has been formed in France under the title of "Compagnie Maritime Française de la Méditerranée Occidentale."

This Company propose to unite the ports of Dunkirk and Havre with Alexandria by a line of cargo steamers which will also call at the ports along the north coast of Africa.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.

Establishment at Beira of a Branch of the Rhodesian Customs.

H.M. Consul at Beira (Mr. R. C. F. Maugham) reports that an important step has recently been decided upon with a view to facilitating imports of goods in transit through Beira to the British sphere beyond. It has been resolved, with the concurrence of the Portuguese Authorities, to open in Beira a branch of the Rhodesian Customs, for the purpose of facilitating the forwarding of consignments of goods destined for Rhodesian centres.

With this end in view, it will now be possible, on the arrival of shipments, for consignees to instruct their local transport agents to pay all freights and Customs charges at Beira instead of, as hitherto, at the various Rhodesian Customs centres, and to forward them on without waste of time to their destinations in Rhodesia. It has been further arranged that, in addition to duties and railway freight charges being once and for all payable in Beira as above outlined, goods may without local payment, be still forwarded on to any place in Rhodesia where Customs officials are posted, advice notes of the goods despatched being, at the same time, forwarded to the consignee who, on payment of the Customs freight charges mentioned, can at once take delivery.

In the cases of goods from the Cape, Natal, and other countries in the Customs Union, merchants can forward the advices to agents at Beira, and thus ensure immediate forwarding of goods.

This arrangement was agreed to on the 23rd February, and came into operation at once.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Proposed Railway Communication between Croatia and Dalmatia.

A despatch has been received from H.M. Embassy at Vienna reporting that the question of railway communication between Croatia and Dalmatia has been under the consideration of the Hungarian Government, who have decided to encourage the building of the line if it is shown that Hungary will obtain some corresponding economic advantage for the ex-

Shipping and Transport.

AUSTRIA—HUNGARY—*continued.*

penditure to be incurred. The direction the line is to take has not been determined; three lines are under consideration, which would all of them connect the Austrian frontier with Knin. The first project is to construct the line through Gospic-Otacac-Lubca to Opalin, where it would join the Hungarian State line. The second is a modification of the first, and consists in making the line branch off at Tunj on the Hungarian State railway towards Bihac, and thence reach the frontier at Gracac. According to the third project the line would partially traverse Bosnian territory and not be subjected to the control of the Hungarian State line. The Hungarian Government is disposed to undertake the construction of the railway on the lines of either of the two first-mentioned projects, and on the basis of a local railway,

New Hungarian Levant S.S. line.

H.M. Embassy at Berlin reports that the Hungarian Government have concluded the negotiations with the North German Lloyd and the German Levant line for the development of the Hungarian Levant line. The new line, which will consist of 11 new steamers, is to be specially devoted to the traffic west from Braila; it will receive a yearly subvention of 1,200,000 crowns (50,000*l.*) from the Government. The German Levant line will surrender in favour of the Hungarian line its service from Braila to the west, and the North German Lloyd its service between Braila and Genoa. Through tariffs from all Hungarian river and sea shipping stations are to be arranged with the "Hungarian river and sea shipping company" which will be extended to all lines of the North German Lloyd and the German Levant line.

ROUMANIA.

British Shipping in the Danube in 1906.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the Statistics of Navigation of the Lower Danube for the year 1906, recently completed by the Statistical Bureau of the European Commission, from which it appears that British shipping in the Danube has steadily increased during that year, and still holds the first place in spite of the continuous progress of Greek shipping. The total tonnage of British vessels clearing from the Danube was 982,611 tons, as compared with 705,240 tons for 1905, the number of steamers being given as 437, as against 325 for 1905, being about one-third of the total number of vessels and considerably more than one-third of the total tonnage.

Shipping and Transport.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Law Regulating Immigration of Aliens.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Embassy at Washington, a copy of a new Law regulating the immigration of aliens into the United States, which has been passed by Congress, and has received the approval of the President. The text of the Law may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Shipping Charges at Portland, Or.: Pilotage on Columbia River Bar.

A statement showing the charges on shipping and port expenses at Portland, Or., has been received from H.M. Consul (Mr. J. Laidlaw), and may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Mr. Laidlaw reports that a Bill has passed the Legislature, constituting the "Port of Columbia Corporation to establish and maintain an efficient towage and pilotage service on the Columbia River bar." In order to provide tug and pilot boats, the "Port of Columbia" is authorised to issue interest-bearing bonds.

MEXICO.

Closing of Custom House of Tonala; Jurisdiction of Custom Houses at Salina Cruz & Soconusco extended.

The Mexican "Diario Oficial" of 9th March contains a decree by virtue of which the Custom House of Tonala (Chiapas) has been closed, and the jurisdiction of the Custom Houses at Salina Cruz and at Soconusco has been extended, the former from Morro Ayuca to the Bar of Tolomita, and the latter from the Bar of Tolomita to the Guatemalan frontier.

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

BRITISH INDIA.

Manganese Industry.

With reference to the notice published on p. 136 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 17th January last, respecting the growth of the manganese industry of India, the following further particulars taken from the "Pioneer Mail" (Allahabad) may be of interest:—

"The manganese industry in India is quite of recent origin, but it has a great future before it, judging from the activity in the export trade. The crude ore is now sent to Europe and America, but proprietors of mines should note that greater profits can be earned if ferro-manganese is supplied for shipment. The ore can be treated electrically and ferro-manganese be produced

on the spot. This commands a very ready market, and prices for it are ruling high. Wherever water-power or cheap coal is obtainable in the vicinity of the manganese mines electricity can be generated and the necessary scientific processes be undertaken. In the Central Provinces coal can be got at cheap rates, and private enterprise might well be directed to the manufacture of ferro-manganese. The direct result would be that no transit charges would be paid except on actual saleable material, whereas with crude ores there is always a large amount of waste on which freight has to be paid both on railways and ocean steamers."

CANADA.

Minerals in Vancouver Island.

A bulletin has been issued by the Government of British Columbia giving the result of an official visit made by the provincial assayer of the Province among the mines and groups of mines on the west coast of Vancouver Island, which may be summarised as follows :—

Well-marked copper and hematite iron zones exist on Quatsino Sound. This property is now under bond to an American syndicate at Seattle, which contemplate the making of iron at Irondale, Washington, but so far no ore has been mined or shipped. At Nootka Sound, which lies south of and adjacent to Esperanza Inlet, also on west coast, extensive areas of crystalline marble of great purity and good quality exist, but whether it can be quarried in sufficiently large slabs to be profitable is not yet determined, although transportation facilities are all that could be desired.

At Hesquiot Harbour, the next inlet to the south, the assayer found beds of zinc blende, carrying 20 to 25 ounces to the ton. At Sidney Inlet, 10 miles yet further south, is a group of nine claims at a height of over 2,000 feet, the ore from which shows 17 per cent. copper. There are also many claims, containing iron and copper pyrites, on Clayoquot Sound, still farther south on the west coast of this island. The principal claims here are also owned by an American company composed of citizens of Seattle.

On Barkley Sound, the most important inlet on the west coast of Vancouver Island, are a large number of claims in which quantities of ore have been found showing principally copper pyrites, gold and silver. In one place a buff red stone, thought to have good value as a building stone, is found. In one plateau, 4,000 feet wide, there is the strong red colour due to iron stain, and the whole ground, as well as some of the hills around, are heavily mineralised with iron pyrites and pyrrhotite. Here also many iron and other claims are bonded to American syndicates, though as yet little active work has been done, and no ore has been shipped.

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

Great activity has recently been manifested in prospecting the district adjacent to Victoria. All the claims on which option has been given have developed copper-gold ores.

The great trouble with much of Vancouver Island is that the cliffs and mountains are so steep and vast as to be almost inaccessible, while the mineralisation is so scattered and of such low grade, that only by the best and most modern machinery can it be developed to financial advantage.

RUSSIA.

Exportation of Krivoi-Rog Iron Ores.

See notice on p. 23.

SWEDEN.

New Process of Extracting Aluminium from Blue Clay.

H.M. Minister at Stockholm reports an announcement in the Swedish press that Herr E. L. Rinman, an instructor at the University of Upsala, has discovered a new process for extracting aluminium from blue clay, which, it is claimed, will enable the cost of production to be reduced to about a quarter of its present price; as well as for utilising certain by-products of the clay. The application of the invention, however, for industrial purposes, adds H.M. Minister, seems to depend on the possibility of obtaining electrical power from water in sufficient quantity and on reasonable terms.

ITALY.

Motor Car Industry.

H.M. Consul at Milan (Mr. J. H. Towsey) has forwarded a copy and translation of a return published by L'Industria of Milan, giving details of Italian Companies manufacturing motor cars and boats in Italy up to July, 1906. This return may be examined by British manufacturers interested at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

PERSIA.

No Demand for Heavy Machinery.

The Acting British Consul-General at Ispahan (Dr. Aganoor), in his report for 1905-6 (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,748), states in reference to enquiries that are frequently made by British engineering, electrical and other firms as to openings for the introduction of machinery into the Persian market, that there is practically no opening for **large, heavy** or **complicated** machinery, nor will there be until better roads are made or until railways are introduced. This is a first desideratum.

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Production of Bessemer Steel Ingots and Rails.

The "Iron Age" (New York) publishes statistics of the production of Bessemer steel ingots and of Bessemer steel rails in the United States during 1906, which have been collected by the American Iron and Steel Association. The total production of Bessemer steel ingots and castings was 12,275,253 tons (of which about 32,000 tons were steel castings), as compared with 10,941,375 tons (22,103 tons steel castings) in 1905; the production of Bessemer steel rails was 3,705,642 tons, as against 3,135,729 tons in 1905. The statistics of open hearth rail production in 1906 have not been published, but it is estimated that the rails made in 1906 from open hearth steel, rails rolled from purchased blooms, crop ends and "seconds," and rails re-rolled or renewed by non-producers of steel ingots will amount to about 300,000 tons, against 240,200 tons in 1905, making the total rail production in the United States in 1906 about 4,000,000 tons, as against 3,375,929 tons in 1905, an increase of about 20 per cent.

The production of Bessemer steel rails (excluding rails rolled by companies which do not make Bessemer ingots) in 1906 according to the weight of the rails per yard was as follows:—

—	Under 45 lbs.	45 lbs. and less than 85 lbs.	85 lbs. and over.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Pennsylvania	130,361	548,132	619,916	1,298,409
Other States	92,997	1,060,661	1,253,575	2,407,233
Totals	223,358	1,608,793	1,873,491	3,705,642

NOTE.—The ton referred to above is the gross ton of 2,240 lbs.

Phosphorus from Mineral Deposits.

According to the "Iron Age," the United States Geological Survey calls attention to the fact that phosphorus is now being manufactured in that country from mineral deposits. The place where it is produced is in the vicinity of Mount Holly Springs, about 10 miles south-west of Harrisburg, Pa., where a deposit of wavellite occurs in white clay associated with manganese and iron ore. Small quantities of phosphorus had previously been obtained from phosphorite and from apatite, but wavellite, which is aluminum phosphate, has never before been used commercially in the manufacture of phosphorus, as the mineral generally occurs but in limited quantities. The deposit which is now being worked contains the wavellite in pure form not known to occur elsewhere in sufficient quantity to be mined. Hitherto phosphorus has been made solely from bones and organic substances.

YARNS AND TEXTILES.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Combine of Smyrna Carpet Manufacturers.

The French Consul-General at Smyrna (M. Paul Blanc), states that an agreement has been arrived at between the carpet manufacturers of Asia Minor, which will bring about a sensible increase in the price of Smyrna carpets. For some time past, negotiations have been on foot between the principal carpet manufacturers in Smyrna and a certain number of wool dyers, and these have resulted in the formation of a combine, entitled, "The Amalgamated Oriental Carpet Manufacturers," with a capital of 300,000*l.*, subscribed from British sources. A large warehouse is to be erected in Smyrna, where all the carpets, &c., made by the firms in the combine will be stored; and the existing warehouses belonging to these firms will be closed. This combine, remarks M. Blanc, constitutes a new departure in Smyrna trade, and it is possible that the example of the carpet manufacturers will be followed by traders in other lines of business.

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 30th March, 1907, were as follows:—

Wheat	26*s.*	8*d.*
Barley	23*s.*	9*d.*
Oats	18*s.*	2*d.*

For further particulars see p. 42.

ITALY, SICILY.

Citrus Prospects.

H.M. Consul at Palermo (Mr. S. J. A. Churchill) reports that heavy snow and bad weather have damaged the prospects of the citrus for table fruit.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Beet Sugar Industry.

The British Commercial Agent in the United States (Mr. E. Seymour Bell) reports that, according to the New York "Journal of Commerce," a report is being prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture with reference to the beet sugar crop of last year. It is said that the total for the year will amount to about 475,000 tons, against 195,000 tons in the previous year. This is the largest crop that has been produced in the United States, and

Agriculture.

is about equal to the cane sugar production of the country. The two together amount to more than one-third of the sugar consumed in the United States. It is pointed out that, at the rate the sugar business is increasing, all the sugar required will probably, at no distant date, be produced in the country.

Twelve new factories were established last year, and others are projected.

UNITED STATES—PHILIPPINES.

Rubber Cultivation.

According to a report on commercial conditions in the Philippines in 1906, recently published by the United States Department of Commerce and Labour, india rubber and gutta-percha plants and trees are found in various parts of the islands in sufficient numbers to justify the belief that rubber cultivation may prove successful. Data collected by Director Ahern and by Philippine botanists and collectors show that the climate, soil, and other conditions of the islands are favourable to rubber and gutta-percha, while Government nurseries have been already established in the islands for the distribution of rubber plants for the use of rubber plantations.

PERSIA.

Cotton Exports.

The Acting British Consul-General at Ispahan (Dr. Aganoor), in his report for 1905-6 (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,748), states that during that period something like 300,000 shah mâns, equal to 3,900,000 lbs., of cotton were exported—all to Russia. Some 30,000 mâns remained unsold and were brought forward to the present year. The price at the commencement of the season was 11 to 12 krans (kran = 4¾*d.*) per shah mân, but it gradually declined to 8½ krans owing to the falling-off of the demand in Russia on account of the internal disturbances there. For some years past Ispahan cotton has been exported almost entirely to Russia, the export to Bombay having practically ceased.

The British Vice-Consul at Yezd (Mr. H. Baggaley), states that the supply of raw cotton is very limited; most of it is exported to Russia *viâ* Shahrud, and the balance goes to Bombay. Owing to the Russo-Japanese war, stocks exported from Yezd accumulated at Shahrud, thus causing a loss to the exporters, who had sent the cotton on consignment.

COREA.

Cotton Cultivation.

The following observations on the subject of cotton cultivation in Corea, from a report on a recent visit to that country by Mr. Lindley of H.M. Embassy at Tokio, may be of interest in connexion with

previous notices on the same subject (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 24th January last, p. 194):—

At the time of Mr. Lindley's visit the only crop still standing was cotton which appeared to be grown to a limited extent. The weight of the crop was obviously inferior to that of Egypt, and the plants did not attain to a height of more than 12 to 18 inches. It should be mentioned, however, that cotton is a rain crop, at any rate in the south-west part of Corea, and receives no irrigation. The Japanese hope to be able to supply their spinning-mills with raw material from Corea; the Japanese Resident at Mokpo endeavoured to improve the style of cultivation and to supply superior seed to the villagers in his district, but he found them extremely conservative in their methods and seed of suitable quality was difficult to obtain in sufficient quantities.

Cotton has for many years been raised in Corea for local consumption, but it seems probable that some time will elapse before any great extension of the crop will take place. It will be necessary first to convert land now under rice (under which there is far more land than under all other crops together) into cotton land, and farmers are not likely to relinquish easily the cultivation of a commodity that is of the first necessity to them, and for which there is always a ready local market. Before they do this it will be necessary both to persuade them that their interest lies in the new departure, and to improve communications and methods of exchange sufficiently to enable the cultivator to dispose readily of his crop and to import foreign rice to replace that which is no longer grown.

NOTE.—A report on experiments in cotton culture in Corea by Mr. Ando, Expert in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Tokio, was published by the Foreign Office (Miscellaneous Series, No. 654) in September last, and may be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C., at a cost of 1*d.*, exclusive of postage.

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 28th March, 1907, was 94,404 (including 108 bales British West Indian and 435 bales British West African), and the number imported during the thirteen weeks ended the 28th March was 2,021,735 (including 1,725 bales British West Indian and 1,204 bales British West African). As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 28th March, 1907, 15,219 bales, and for the thirteen weeks, 175,494.

For further details see p. 42.

Miscellaneous.

UNITED KINGDOM—*continued.*

Inspectors of Weights and Measures.

The following persons, nominated by local authorities for the post of Inspectors of Weights and Measures, have passed the examination provided for under the 8th section of the Weights and Measures Act, 1904:—S. Blackhurst, Salford; H. J. Brizell, Bootle; J. McLean, London County; J. Paterson, Lanark County; J. S. Short, Leeds; J. W. Southgate, Norwich; W. W. Thompson, Norwich; E. Thurlow, Kingston-upon-Hull.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Currency.

With reference to the notice on p. 35 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 3rd January last, and to previous notices on the subject of currency in the Straits Settlements, it is noted that the "Straits Settlements Government Gazette" of the 4th March publishes proclamations substituting a new schedule as regards the weight, fineness, &c., of the Straits Settlements dollar and half dollar, as follows:—

—	Silver Half Dollar.	Silver Dollar.
Millesimal fineness	900	900
Standard weight	156 grains (10·108 grammes).	312 grains (20·217 grammes).
Least current weight	154 grains (9·979 grammes).	308 grains (19·958 grammes).
Remedy allowance—		
Weight per piece	1·0 grains (0·0 5 grammes).	1·6 grains (0·108 grammes).
Millesimal fineness	three thousandths	three thousandths

GAMBIA.

Trade in 1906.

The "Gambia Government Gazette" publishes the report of the Acting Collector of Customs relating to the trade of the Colony during the year 1906, from which the following particulars are taken:—

—	Imports.		Exports.	
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	113,398	197,421	17,809	20,462
British Colonies	40,764	43,442	26,676	30,586
Foreign Countries	151,019	206,794	235,787	377,630
Total	305,181	447,657	280,272	428,678

Miscellaneous.

Cotton Goods.—The most important item of import was cotton goods which showed an increase of 36,477*l.* as compared with 1905 (89,688*l.* against 53,211*l.*), due to the crop of ground nuts being greater than that in the previous year. The value of cotton goods imported from Great Britain was 78,301*l.*; France, 8,836*l.*; and Germany, 2,097*l.* The importation of cotton goods from Germany is gradually increasing year by year, and this progress is entirely due to suppliers of that class of merchandise, having sent their representatives to the colony a few years ago for the purpose of securing orders.

Ground Nuts.—The chief commercial product of the Gambia is ground nuts, and the quantity exported varies considerably from year to year, the crop depending on the rainfall, the quantity of seed supplied to farmers and other circumstances. The exports in 1906 amounted to 36,050 tons, valued at 278,055*l.*, as compared with 29,499 tons, valued at 169,426*l.*

It might be of interest to mention that, with the exception of one English firm, the largest mercantile houses in Bathurst are French, and the bulk of the nuts go to Marseilles and Bordeaux, where they are manufactured into oil. The oil extracted is of various qualities, some of the finer being employed in the tinning of sardines and other uses connected with the table, the coarser oil being used in making soap, feeding cattle, &c. Of late years a certain quantity of nuts has been exported to Holland, Denmark and Germany. In England "picked nuts" are to a considerable extent employed in confectionery in the place of almonds.

Rubber.—There was an increase in the export of rubber last year, as compared with 1905, of 1,383 lbs. in quantity and 169*l.* in value. The soil in the Protectorate is stated to be well suited for its cultivation, and with the investment of a sufficient amount of capital to establish a rubber plantation, it would probably constitute a very profitable industry.

Raw Cotton.—In the report for 1905 special attention was drawn to the very great decrease in the export of raw cotton, and it is evident that this industry has come to an end. The quantity exported last year was 192 lbs. as compared with 2,572 lbs. in 1905, a decrease of 2,380 lbs. The article was sent to Dakar—French Senegal—where the natives manufacture it into lamp wick which is consumed locally.

Piassava.—It may be interesting to persons engaged in the manufacture of brooms, brushes, &c., to mention that piassava has in the past been exported from the Gambia, and that there are forests of this palm to be seen growing on the banks of the river Gambia. With an adequate amount of money laid out to set up the machinery necessary for cleaning the fibre, it would, as in the case of rubber, probably constitute a very profitable industry.

Miscellaneous.

GERMANY.

Fishing Industry: Improved Facilities at Cuxhaven.

The United States Consul-General at Frankfort reports that the State government of Hamburg is contemplating extensive improvements for the landing, storing and shipping of fish at the port of Cuxhaven, in the interest of the German fishing industries. The railway tracks are to be laid alongside the new market and storage halls are about to be erected, so as to allow the direct loading of an entire train of 12 goods waggons. Within the last five years the German fish catch has nearly trebled in amount and value. The increase has been especially marked in the last year owing to the great demand for fish in consequence of the high prices ruling for all kinds of meat throughout Germany. Besides the increased catch by the German fishing fleet, the importation and consumption of foreign fish amounts to a large sum annually. About two-thirds of this importation consists of salted and fresh herring.

Berlin Banks in 1906.

The following memorandum on the working of the Berlin banks during 1906 has been received from H.M. Embassy at Berlin :—

Owing to the enormous activity of industry and trade in the past year, the banks had all they could do to satisfy the demands made upon them by industrial and commercial clients ; in fact they were able to take up little other business. The two chief characteristics of the year are a high-water mark in industrial affairs and a low-water mark in business done on the German Exchanges. The banks have tried to make the most of the former circumstance while avoiding the injurious effects of the latter. The discount rate of the Imperial Bank never went below 4½ per cent., and even rose to 7 per cent. In order to meet the demands made upon them, several of the Berlin Banks increased their capital largely. The "Deutsche Bank" raised its capital by 1,000,000*l.*, the "Dresdener Bank" did likewise and by the same amount.

The total capital of the nine listed great Banks was 58,150,000*l.*; the net profits amounted to 6,571,500. ; and their dividends came to a total of 4,893,500*l.*, making about 8⅘th per cent. interest after adding 1,990,000*l.* to the various reserve funds. The interest paid was, in no case, lower than 6½ per cent., and varied upwards from that percentage to 12 per cent. In every case the interest was almost identical with that fixed in 1905, in two cases it was slightly higher.

FRANCE.

Alcohol Tax.

The "Journal Officiel" of 30th March publishes a decree fixing the rate of the tax on the manufacture of industrial alcohol in France for the year 1908 at 2·07 francs per hectolitre of pure alcohol.

Miscellaneous.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Brewing Trade, 1905-6.

The "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" quotes from the "Osservatore Triestino" the following particulars of the Austrian brewing trade:—

The production of beer in Austria during the year 1905-6 amounted to 19,500,000 hectolitres, of which 1,370,371 hectolitres were exported. It is worthy of note that although the quantity of beer produced in Germany is nearly four times as great as that produced in Austria, the exports from the latter country exceed those from the former. The German production in 1905-06 amounted to 72,000,000 hectolitres, and the exports to 931,000 hectolitres, or little more than 1 per cent. of the total, as compared with 7 per cent. from Austria.

Hectolitre = 22 imperial gallons.

BRAZIL.

Export Trade.

The "Brazilian Review" publishes the following statistics of the export trade of Brazil during the year 1906, with comparative figures for the preceding year:—

Principal Articles of Merchandise.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.
			£	£
Bran ... ... Kilos.	26,431,760	24,858,341	167,660	126,986
Carnauba wax ... ... „	1,896,757	2,559,247	207,818	420,016
Castor seed ... ... „	2,645,775	3,126,047	24,017	37,491
Cocoa ... ... „	21,090,088	25,135,307	1,039,535	1,386,441
Coffee ... ... Bags	10,820,661	13,965,800	21,420,515	27,615,884
Cotton ... ... Kilos.	24,081,753	31,668,400	1,157,714	1,656,730
Cotton seed ... ... „	37,493,736	30,903,888	108,458	122,034
Flour manioc or cassiava „	5,276,146	6,644,103	77,859	88,863
Fruits .... —	—	—	68,250	80,362
Gold, Bar ... ...Grams	3,878,698	4,547,940	420,128	492,656
Herva-matte ... ... Kilos	41,119,930	57,796,403	1,236,550	1,856,574
Hides and Skins ... „	29,027,396	35,044,764	1,851,584	2,475,721
Horns ... ... „	1,101,236	1,143,235	31,069	31,217
Horse-hair ... ... „	446,008	534,975	34,594	45,395
Lumber ... ... —	—	—	43,883	35,874
Manganese ... ... Tons.	224,377	121,331	332,827	179,380
Monazite sand ... ... Kilos.	4,437,290	4,351,600	100,038	99,143
Para nuts ... ... Hect.	198,226	96,770	232,206	133,895
Piassava ... ... Kilos.	1,287,943	1,373,528	37,875	39,074
Rubber ... ... „	35,392,611	34,960 184	14,415,771	14,055,911
Scrap metal ... ... „	3,925,796	6,104,107	29,644	42,983
Stones, precious... ... —	—	—	71,316	166,529
Sugar ... ... Kilos.	37,746,510	84,948,346	405,954	606,217
Tobacco ... ... „	20,390,558	23,629,769	825,206	931,854
Wool ... ... „	253,190	512,633	16,022	39,831
Other Articles ... ... —	—	—	275,759	1,292,419
Total Merchandise... —	—	—	44,632,252	53,059,480
Specie ... ... —	—	—	10,731	32,750
Grand total ... —	—	—	44,642,983	53,092,230

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported** at the **Various Ports** of the **United Kingdom** during the Week and 13 Weeks ended 28th March, 1907 :—

	Week ended 28th Mar., 1907.	13 Weeks ended 28th Mar., 1907.	Week ended 28th Mar., 1907.	13 Weeks ended 28th Mar., 1907.
	Imports. (Bales.)		Exports. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	84,219	1,635,281‡	8,928	84,814‡
Brazilian	3,575	97,656	317	7,396
East Indian	2,122	54,839‡	836	11,641‡
Egyptian	2,392	208,911‡	4,366	69,304
Miscellaneous	2,096*	25,048†‡	772	2,339‡
Total	94,404	2,021,735	15,219	175,494

* Including 108 bales British West Indian and 435 bales British West African.
† „ 1,725 „ „ „ 1,204 „ „ „
‡ Corrected figures.

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the **Average Price** of **British Corn,** per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure.* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 30th March, 1907, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Week ended 30th March, 1907	26	8	23	9	18	2
Corresponding week in—						
1900	25	10	24	10	17	2
1901	26	3	25	3	18	0
1902	27	3	26	5	20	6
1903	25	3	22	6	17	0
1904	27	11	22	10	16	6
1905	30	9	25	1	16	11
1906	28	3	24	5	18	11

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley, and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of February, 1907, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a cost, in the present instance, of 1*s.* 2*d.* per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1905, in two volumes, and a supplementary volume, may be purchased at a cost of 7*s.* 8*d.* for the first, 4*s.* 2*d.* for the second, and 3*s.* 11*d.* for the supplementary volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1901–1905, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country) in the first volume; details as to customs revenue, transhipments. and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country in the second volume; and in the supplementary volume abstract and detailed tables showing countries of consignment of imports and countries of ultimate destination of exports.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

The "Board of Trade Labour Gazette"* is published by the Board of Trade on the 16th of each month. The following are among the more important articles which appear in the March issue:—State of the Labour Market in February; Output of Coal and Employment at Coal Mines in 1906; Wages of Coal Miners and Price of Coal; Diseases of Occupations in 1906; Fatal Industrial Accidents in 1906; and Recent Conciliation and Arbitration Cases.

PATENT OFFICE PUBLICATIONS.

Journals.

The following Journals are published every Wednesday at the Patent Office, 25, Southampton Buildings, W.C. The price of each is 6*d.*, by post 8*d.*:—

1. "Illustrated Official Journal (Patents)," containing lists of applications for patents, proceedings relating to patents, illustrated abridgments of specifications, lists of registered designs, and reports of patent, and design trade mark cases.
2. "Trade Marks Journal," containing lists of applications for trade marks, with illustrations.

* It can be purchased through any newsagent, price 1*d.*

Government Publications.

Abridgments of Patent Specifications.

Illustrated abridgments of specifications are arranged in 146 classes according to subjects. The sets for seven consecutive periods, extending from 1855 to 1900, are complete, and 123 volumes have already been published for the eighth period, 1901-4. The following have been issued during the current week:—

Class 118. Signalling and indicating by signals [*excepting* Railway signals and communicating-apparatus].
„ 124. Stone, marble, and the like, cutting and working.
„ 125. Stoppering and bottling [*including* bottles, jars, and like vessels].

The price of each volume is 1*s.*, including inland postage. They may be obtained from the Patent Office, 25, Southampton Buildings, W.C. A complete list of the classes will be supplied gratis on application.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the **Annual Series** issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3,750. Trade of Liberia, 1906.

Sketch of the commercial and industrial possibilities of Liberia; transport facilities; openings for trade and cultivation; local laws and legal procedure, &c.

Remarks on the climate and methods for combating malarial and other fevers.

Account of the currency.

Progress of the work of the British Chartered Company.

Returns of trade and shipping.

Procedure on arrival and unloading of vessels.

Schedules of import and export duties.

No. 3,751. Mexican Budget, 1907-08.

Tabular statements of estimated revenue and expenditure for 1907-08, showing an estimated surplus of 586,840*l.* Of this sum, 500,000*l.* will be applied to the relief of taxation and the increase of salaries, the estimated net excess of revenue over expenditure standing therefore at 86,840*l.*

Satisfactory influence on the monetary situation of the currency reform of March, 1905.

Summary tables of imports and exports in 1905-06.

State of the public debt.

Government Publications.

LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** Series since the 1st January, 1907, may be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C.

No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—	
	Belgium:	
656	*Precautions taken in Belgium to combat Ankylostomiasis*	1½*d.*
	Denmark:	
3741	Denmark—Finances, 1903–4 and 1904–5	1*d.*
3746	Denmark—Trade and Shipping (supplementary) 1905	1*d.*
	Italy:	
3744	South Italy 1906	1½*d.*
	Portugal and Colonies:	
3743	Goa 1905	1*d.*
	Roumania:	
3749	Roumania (supplementary) 1905	1½*d.*
3745	**Russia:** Poland and Lithuania..1906	2½*d.*
	AFRICA—	
3747	Abyssinia ... 1905–6	2*d.*
3750	Liberia 1906	2½*d.*
3740	Tunis 1905	2*d.*
	AMERICA, NORTH—	
	Mexico:	
3751	Mexican Budget... 1907–8	1*d.*
	AMERICA, SOUTH—	
	Ecuador:	
3742	Ecuador 1905	
	ASIA—	
	Persia:	
3748	Ispahan and Yezd ...1905–6	1*d.*

Treaty Series.

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since the 1st January, 1907, may also be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C.:—

No.	———	Price.
	EUROPE—	
	France:	
3	Convention between the United Kingdom and France concerning the New Hebrides	2½*d.*
5	Agreement between the United Kingdom and France relative to the Frontier between the British and French Possessions from the Gulf of Guinea to the Niger	1*s.* 1*d.*
	France and Italy:	
1	Agreement between the United Kingdom, France and Italy respecting Abyssinia	1*d.*
2	Agreement between the United Kingdom, France and Italy respecting the Importation of Arms and Ammunition into Abyssinia	½*d.*
	Morocco:	
4	General Act of the International Conference at Algeciras relating to the Affairs of Morocco	4*d.*
	United States of America:	
7	Supplementary Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States of America for the Mutual Surrender of Fugitive Criminals	½*d.*
	Brazil:	
6	Accession of Brazil to the Geneva Convention of 22nd August, 1864, for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field	½*d.*

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade (No. 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.) is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference, and at which, so far as the interests of British trade permit, replies shall be given to enquiries by traders on commercial matters.

On application being made to it either personally or by letter, the Branch supplies, so far as is possible, information with regard to the following subjects, viz.: Commercial Statistics; Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs and Customs Regulations; Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities; Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender. Sources of Supply, Prices, &c., of Trade Products; Forms of Certificates of Origin; Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers, &c., &c. There is a Sample Room at the offices of the Branch, where, in addition to samples illustrative of reports of H.M. Consuls or of the Correspondents or Special Commissioners of the Board of Trade, specimens of special interest that may be received from the Imperial Institute, India, or the Colonies, &c., are exhibited from time to time.

The Governments of India, Canada, Cape of Good Hope, and Queensland, also the Governments of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, have established, in proximity to the Commercial Intelligence Branch, at 73, Basinghall Street, special offices for dealing with trade matters (see next page).

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, and intended for general information, is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is issued weekly at the price of 3*d*. All applications respecting subscription, or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London to Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street. Copies may also be obtained from Messrs. G. Street & Co., Ltd., 30, Cornhill, E.C.

SPECIAL INDIAN AND COLONIAL TRADE ENQUIRY OFFICES.

India.—The India Trade Enquiry Office at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., has been established for the purpose of supplying the general public with all available information as to the commercial products, manufactures and trades of British India.

The office is under the superintendence of an India Office official, who is in daily attendance to answer personal or written enquiries.

The current publications of the Government of India dealing with Indian Trade statistics, tariff charges, railways, economic products, &c., are kept in the office, and can be consulted free: the various Indian Directories are also filed.

Canada.—The Canadian Government have secured premises at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where an office has been opened under the designation of "Canadian Government City Trade Branch," for the convenience of the commercial community.

In due course it is intended to equip and maintain a display room, illustrating the products, resources and manufactures of the Dominion. In the meantime, a Canadian representative attends daily to deal with enquiries and applications in connection with Canadian import and export trade, and to supply information about Canadian matters generally. Personal appointments can be arranged when desired.

Cape of Good Hope.—The Government of the Cape of Good Hope have opened offices at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., for the purpose of a Commercial Agency for that Colony, under the direction of the Agent-General.

The Commercial Agent in charge of these offices deals with, and supplies free, information on trade subjects connected with the Colony, such as commercial products, industries, trade, tariff regulations, commercial statistics, railway rates, prospects for emigration, &c., &c.

Queensland.—For the convenience of the commercial community in the City of London, the Agent-General for Queensland has opened a branch office at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where a representative attends daily to give information to enquirers regarding trade, mining, and all other matters in connection with Queensland.

A collection of articles representative of the pastoral, agricultural, and mining industries of Queensland is on view, and information regarding these industries can be obtained at the Office, as above.

Transvaal and Orange River Colony.—A Trade Enquiry Office has been opened at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., by the Governments of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, on the lines of the agency established at the same address by the Government of Cape Colony, but under the general direction of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

The Superintendent in charge of the Office deals with, and supplies free, information in regard to the products and resources of the two Colonies, the opportunities they present to the settler, their railway facilities, the regulations of all kinds in force in them affecting trade. &c.. &c.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

The Imperial Institute at South Kensington was transferred by Act of Parliament to the control of the Board of Trade on the 1st January, 1903. The work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Office of the Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

The Imperial Institute is chiefly occupied with the systematic investigation and illustration of the principal resources of India and the Colonies. It includes :—

1. The Galleries, containing collections of economic products, &c., illustrative of the natural and commercial resources of British Possessions. These are open free to the public daily (except on Sundays) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Summer, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Winter. Special arrangements may be made for the visits of schools and other educational institutions. Information concerning India and the Colonies, their products, industries, prospects for emigration, &c., may be obtained on verbal application at the Central stand in the Galleries, or applications may be addressed in writing to the Director of the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, S.W. Publications furnishing information relating to the commerce, agriculture, mining and other industries of India and the Colonies, as well as those relating to emigration, may also be obtained on application at the Central stand. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room attached to the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

2. The Scientific and Technical Department with extensive laboratories specially equipped for the purpose of investigating problems connected with tropical agriculture and development. In this Department new or little known natural products from India and the Colonies, and commercial products from new sources, received through the Government of the countries concerned, are examined with a view to their valuation and utilisation. The expert staff of the Department is also engaged in the collection of information from all sources on these and similar subjects.

3. The Library and Reading Rooms, containing a large collection of Indian and Colonial works of reference, which are regularly supplied with the principal official publications of India and the Colonies, and with many of the principal newspapers, periodicals and maps of the United Kingdom, India, and the Colonies.

4. Conference and Meeting Rooms which are available under certain conditions for the purpose of meetings, lectures, &c., on subjects of importance to India and the Colonies.

5. The "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute." This publication, which is now issued quarterly, includes reports on investigations conducted at the Imperial Institute, and also special articles relating to recent developments in tropical agriculture and in the utilisation of raw materials. The "Bulletin" may be obtained at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, or from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., price one shilling per number.